LONDON metro®

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

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continued on back

Liberal
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1. McKinsey & Co, 2011
2. Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2011
3. Statistics Canada, 2012. US Bureau of Labour, 2012.

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SHE'S TRUE TO TYPE

Dr. Gillian Kernaghan, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Health Care London, gives her share at Canadian Blood Services (840 Commissioners Rd. E.) on Tuesday morning to kick-start the Partners for Life program. St. Joseph's, along with London Health Sciences Centre, is teaming with Canadian Blood Services to promote blood donations by setting yearly goals of 50 and 85 units of blood, respectively, for their staff. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Deep freeze

Ontario budget. Liberals promise $17.7 billion in savings and cost containment over next three years

ANGELA MULLINS
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A freeze on everything from pay to taxes was the name of the game at Queen's Park Tuesday as the Liberals unveiled their budget and a five-year plan for balancing the books.

London West MPP Chris Bentley called the plan "strong" and "reasonable," saying it asks all Ontarians to do their part to slay the provincial deficit.

"We haven't taken a slash-and-burn approach," he said.

The $127-billion spending plan includes taking $1 billion from reserves. The deficit stands at $15.3 billion, down from an estimated $16 billion. The budget doesn't include a tax hike for the public and stays the corporate tax rate at 11.5 per cent, delaying planned cuts.

Costs will be cut by $4 for every $1 of new revenue over the next three years. The financial plan is mostly about "tightening up our spending," London North Centre MPP Deb Matthews said.

"A big part of that is compensation," she said, referring to wages.

Teachers, doctors and executives at universities and colleges are among those whose paycheques will stay the same. If public-sector freezes can't be achieved through collective bargaining, they will be legislated, government leaders said.

The Grits' financial plan reflects many "tough decisions" that, in the end, strike the "right balance" for a strong future, Matthews said. Getting the province's finances back on track is key, she said, to creating jobs and rebuilding the economy.

London-Fanshawe MPP Theresa Armstrong, a New Democrat, said the plan falls short on "job creation, healthcare reform and (addressing) the growing cost of living … that our communities face."

"We need a real job-creation plan," she said, like one that offers targeted tax credits to companies that create jobs.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 2

Highlights

- **Education.** Class sizes remain the same; full-day kindergarten is still a go; some underutilized schools will be closed.
- **Business.** Many business-support programs will be merged, and scheduled decreases in business-education taxes will be frozen until the budget is balanced.
- **Health.** Liberals want to change the Ontario Drug Benefit program so seniors with high incomes pay about $665 a year more for prescriptions.

1 NEWS

Mobile news

Age may creep up on man, but his best friend gets there at warp speed. The American Veterinary Medical Association holds that cats and small dogs are geriatric at seven — and large dogs at six. Scan for the story.

On the web

Beetle jewels

Live beetles covered in jewelry are all the rage in Mexico and are part of a centuries-old tradition. But as the live jewelry gains popularity, not all fashionistas and environmentalists are on the same page. Watch at metronews.ca/video

Shooting death

Hatch convicted of 1st-degree murder

David Hatch has been convicted of first-degree murder in connection with the shooting death of his ex-girlfriend, 29-year-old Marie Roberts of St. Thomas.

The verdict was reached early in the second day of deliberations after the 12-person jury spent nine hours without reaching a decision on Monday.

For the past three weeks, the jury had heard evidence surrounding the death of Roberts, who was found shot to death in London in January 2010.

Hatch was accused of shooting Roberts with a .22 rifle at close range over an alleged love triangle gone sour. He admitted to having shot her, but testified he could not remember why he had done it.

AM980/AM980.CA

Fundraiser

Corporate types play 'rock star'

Six London corporate amateur bands will take to the stage at Smoke-n-Bones (855 Wellington Rd.) on Thursday to raise an estimated $10,000 for children and adults with physical disabilities at Rock for Dimes London.

Short Fiction, Ugly Step Sisters, Oui B Jamon, Second Pass, the Collins Barrow Hard at Tax and Duty Calls will compete for bragging rights as London's best corporate band, at the same time showcasing their talents to guest judges.

All proceeds benefit March of Dimes Canada's programs for children and adults with disabilities.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are $15 per person and can be purchased at rockfordimes.ca or at the door. METRO

The city is in the process of scheduling repairs on the People in the City sculpture, pictured here, on Wellington Street just north of Queens Avenue. The sculpture was commissioned for the city in 1990 and its limestone base has deteriorated. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Fixing up People

Repairs. Sculpture created to honour London's past needs work, city officials say

ANGELA MULLINS
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The city is looking to spend a little more than $42,000 on repairs to a Wellington Street sculpture.

Called People in the City, the artwork was commissioned in 1990 and placed in the median north of Queens Avenue as part of a road redesign.

The repairs would include cleaning and applying a clear-coat finish to the bronze along with fixing the deteriorating limestone base.

"Some of the limestone has become loose through the years, and it basically has to be re-mortared and put in place by a proper conservator," said Robin Armistead, the city's culture manager.

Since the project will cost less than $50,000 it doesn't need politicians' approval, but administrators are passing it through city council channels as a formality. If councillors OK the work at their April 10 meeting, repairs are expected to start in the next few months and would be done by Alexander Gabov, a Kingston public-art conservator.

City administrators are recommending a $2,000-a-year maintenance plan to fix any new limestone damage and wax the bronze for protection from winter weather.

Gabov made emergency repairs to the sculpture in November 2009 — work that included stabilizing the base.

The work's creators and Gabov have expressed interest in having the piece moved, citing damage from continued exposure to road salt and limited public access because of traffic.

City officials will begin exploring options for relocation after repairs are made, Armistead said. The Covent Garden Market and the Forks of the Thames are possible sites, according to a report from city staff.

The complex design of the base prevents it from being moved. So a compromise may be leaving it in place, using it to display flags and moving the bronze onto a new base.

That could cost more than $40,000, according to an estimate from Gabov.

People in the City

- The sculpture was created by artists Doreen Balabanoff and Stuart Reid as a tribute to notable people who helped shape London.
- Complex geometrical lines account for the base, created in a fashion akin to a limestone jigsaw puzzle pieced over a concrete base. The bronze sculpture is a series of pieces grooved together — with two main components.
- At the front of the sculpture stands John Graves Simcoe, London's founder. The people depicted in the sculpture's window-like cutouts range from important figures in entertainment to health care.

Town hall. Mayor weighs in on budget, downtown

Mayor Joe Fontana praised the Liberals' 2012 budget for standing by promises made to municipalities.

The budget uploads costs — like those associated with police and security — to the province, maintains commitments to infrastructure projects and sets money aside for an economic-development fund dedicated to southwest Ontario.

"The focus is on jobs for the province and, obviously, it's on jobs for London," Fontana said.

The mayor's comments came during his Tuesday evening virtual town-hall meeting — a way to connect with Londoners via the Internet.

Joe Fontana LONDON.CA

Fontana, fielding a question about cleaning up downtown, said officials are looking at the possibility of diverting buses off Dundas Street near Richmond.

He also revisited the prospect of Western University taking over city hall and other space on Reg Cooper Square. A business proposal is expected by month's end, the mayor said. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Social services. Agencies, families to bear brunt of freeze, critic says

Freezing welfare will put additional stress on social-service agencies and is nothing less than throwing the provincial deficit's weight on the most "marginalized," one local activist said.

"Why do we always do this?" said Glen Pearson, a former Liberal MP and director of the London Food Bank. "Every time we hit a recession, and every time there are going to have to be cutbacks … we continue to (do it) … on the backs of the people who can't afford it."

The freeze — part of the budget Finance Minister Dwight Duncan unveiled Tuesday — comes weeks after Pearson helped lead community meetings during which people recommended changes to social-assistance programs. Those forums were meant to make Londoners' voices heard in a provincewide review.

"I think it's troubling," Pearson said about the timing. "All of that has been done, but it's like it didn't make any difference."

The freeze is likely to last longer than a year, he said.

"I expect it will be a three-year thing," he said. "One year will not actually save them that much."

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Glen Pearson PARL.GC.CA

Invitation. Singer to perform for Canadian troops in Afghanistan

Go with your gut. The rest are details.

And so, London singer-songwriter Liz Coyles has accepted Alan Frew's invitation to perform for Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

"Completely blown away," Coyles said about being approached by the Glass Tiger front man in Toronto last week about the trip. "When he said it was a different kind of opportunity, that's not what I was expecting. But my gut instantly was like — you have to do this. I didn't even think twice about it.

Liz Coyles
FACEBOOK.COM

Rewarding

"I think it will be extremely rewarding. I think I'm going to learn so much and take so much away from all of it."

Liz Coyles
Singer-songwriter

"My whole team around me was like, 'OK, let's think about this. Let's not answer instantly. Let's get some details.' Probably the more rational side of the team."

Frew made the offer after a Coyles performance at the Royal York hotel during Canadian Music Week. Coyles, 24, spent a Saturday night Googling info on the trip and decided her initial instincts were the way to go.

The official itinerary has yet to be worked out, but she's in.

"I was just saying a couple of weeks ago, it's really sad to me because on any given day, I don't think about the fact that so much is going on in Afghanistan: There's a war over there," said Coyles, whose first single Butterflies hit No. 21 in Canada last week. "I just go about my everyday life, not even thinking about it.

"Now, it's like this opportunity has been given to me to be able to go see what they do on any given day, and what they do for us, you know?"

JIM REYNO/METRO

Man hit by train at Maitland St. crossing

Collision. Police warn pedestrians after fatal incident with CN train

JOHN MATISZ
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London police have confirmed an adult male pedestrian died late Tuesday morning at the Maitland Street railroad crossing.

The man was hit by a westbound CN freight train at around 10:46 a.m.

He died on the scene shortly thereafter.

Police have not released the name, age or hometown of the deceased.

"London police, along with the coroner, are continuing to investigate this unfortunate incident," a press release read.

CN media relations official Lindsay Fedchyshyn told Metro London that the crossing, which is located south of York Street, was fully equipped with warning lights, bells and gates.

"They were functioning as designed at the time of the incident," she added.

Const. Dennis Rivest was unable to confirm if the death was an accident or suicide, saying further investigation is required.

"Police would like to remind people that whenever nearing a railway crossing they are certain to use caution prior to crossing the tracks," the release continued. "Take the time to look and listen no matter what your mode of transportation may be at that time."

Fedchyshyn echoed the police service's sentiments.

"It is certainly a tragic reminder that pedestrians must exercise caution and obey those mechanisms around the railroad track," she said.

This train was involved in the fatal incident Tuesday morning.
JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Near miss. Police seek driver after incident

The London Police Service's traffic management unit is looking for a grey-haired male between the ages of 40 and 50.

The driver of a black Ford F150 pickup truck is wanted for questioning after police investigated a complaint from a woman with a seeing-eye guide dog.

While blaring his horn and speeding through the Fanshawe Road and Richmond Street intersection Monday morning, the driver nearly hit the visually impaired woman.

At the time of the incident, the driver was wearing a red ball cap. His licence plate is similar to 345O2S.

Anyone with information is asked to contact 519-661-5680.

METRO

Michael Rafferty
DAVID CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trial. Rafferty seemed 'stressed' after Tori Stafford disappeared

The man accused of killing eight-year-old Victoria Stafford looked "haggard" and seemed stressed out in the days after her death, court heard Tuesday.

Michael Rafferty visited ex-girlfriend Barbara Armstrong, 44, who kept him illegally supplied with Percocet pills, a few days after Tori's disappearance on April 8, 2009, and he didn't seem like himself, she testified.

"He said that he hadn't been eating, he hadn't been sleeping, he was so stressed out, so many things going on in his life," Armstrong testified.

Rafferty, 31, told her that a friend of a friend's daughter had gone missing, and he was going to help search for her, Armstrong said.

Rafferty has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scandal. Cyber-attack on NDP vote the work of professionals: Tech company

Hackers. Scytl Canada says thousands of false vote requests sent

More than 10,000 "malevolent" Internet addresses were used to jam the NDP leadership convention's online voting system, according to the tech company that ran the vote.

The denial-of-service attack delayed voting for several hours and pushed the crowning of new NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair late into Saturday evening.

Some observers of the weekend convention immediately claimed the technical delays as evidence that New Democrats are not ready to govern.

But a statement Tuesday from Scytl Canada, which ran the online vote, described Saturday's cyber-attack as an organized, professional and illegal effort.

"We deeply regret the inconvenience to NDP voters caused by this malicious, massive, orchestrated attempt to thwart democracy," Susan Crutchlow, the general manager of Scytl Canada, said in a release.

"We are proud, however, that our robust system, which is used by many governments around the world, repelled this attack, did not crash, and completed its mission of giving all NDP members who wished to vote the opportunity to do so securely."

An NDP delegate wears a Brian Topp hat at a polling station in the fourth round of voting during the NDP leadership convention in Toronto on March 24. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Spanish-based company also thanked the party for its patience with the long delays caused by the attack.

Scytl said "many hundreds of thousands" of false voting requests were sent to the system.

"This effectively 'jammed up the pipe' into the voting system, delaying voter access," said the company statement.

The so-called "botnet" used computers around the world, but mainly in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP. Former officers launch class-action

KATE WEBB
Metro in Vancouver

A former Nanaimo police constable filed a class-action lawsuit against the RCMP Tuesday alleging widespread systemic discrimination in the force against female officers, civilian members and civil-service employees.

More than 150 RCMP officers have signed on since former RCMP Cpl. Catherine Galliford came forward with explosive allegations of harassment on the job last November, although Galliford is not participating in the class-action suit.

The suit, filed by former Const. Janet Merlo, claims she suffered depression and post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of 20 years of discrimination and harassment at the Nanaimo RCMP detachment.

"It's too late for me," said Merlo in a statement released by her lawyers, "but I hope that this lawsuit will bring about some positive change for women who are still with the RCMP and women who join in the future."

The notice of claim alleges male members at Merlo's detachment planted sex toys around the office, yelled at her when she got pregnant with her first child and told her to keep her legs closed, and frequently made overt sexual comments and advances toward her.

Former RCMP Const. Janet Merlo shakes an officer's hand in 1991. KLEIN LYONS/CONTRIBUTED

Thunder Bay lawyer Alexander Zaitzeff is one of nine legal experts working on the case. Zaitzeff said the central issue in the case "is the paramilitary culture within the RCMP, in which there is an abuse of authority that occurs."

Breast cancer

Mammogram errors

A study found 109 breast-cancer cases that had not been previously diagnosed in Quebec. The provincial College of Physicians conducted the search after learning there may be errors in previous mammograms.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Private vs. public

Toews speaks on online attacks

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews appeared before a committee Tuesday examining whether his privilege as an MP was breached when online videos disclosed details of his personal life.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec

Students protest

Students blocked access to government buildings in several Quebec cities on Tuesday, leading to police pepper-spray at least one of the crowds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BHi MEN'S SPRING SEASON STANDINGS BHi

B DIVISION

TEAMS	GP	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
THROWBACKS	5	4	1	0	0	19	3	8
REBELS	5	4	1	0	0	19	14	8
ABUSEMENT PARK	5	3	1	0	0	13	9	7
SHOCKERS	5	1	4	0	0	10	20	2

C DIVISION

TEAMS	GP	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
BING ACRES	5	4	1	0	0	13	6	8
BALLWHACKERS	5	3	1	0	1	11	12	7
DIEHARDS	3	2	0	0	1	13	7	5
WOLFPACK	4	2	2	0	0	10	8	4
EVIL MONKEY	4	1	2	0	1	9	8	3
OUT OF GAS	4	1	3	0	0	9	17	2
LONDON LEAFERS	4	1	3	0	0	7	21	2
ACE HOLES	3	0	3	0	0	5	13	0

D DIVISION

TEAMS	GP	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
MISFITS	5	3	1	0	0	18	13	7
N.A.D.S	4	2	1	0	1	9	11	5
FUGAZI	3	2	1	0	0	10	7	4
MARAUDERS	5	2	3	0	0	15	18	4
MULTIPLE SCOREGASM	3	1	2	0	0	8	11	2

COED DIVISION

TEAMS	GP	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
FMC	2	2	0	0	0	4	2	4
ALEX'S TEAM	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	2
BALL PUCKERS	2	0	1	0	1	2	3	1
THUMBS UP	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	0

YOUTH STARS OF THE WEEK

1. BRADLEY GREENE - CANUCKS — 2 GOALS, 2 ASSISTS
2. AUSTIN KREBS - THRASHERS — 2 GOALS, 1 ASSISTS
3. NATHAN BALCOM - WHALERS — 2 GOALS, 1 ASSIST

MEN'S STARS OF THE WEEK

1. ZACK MACARTHUR - DIE HARDS — 3 GOALS, 1 ASSISTS (HAT TRICK)
2. DAVE DOAN - DIE HARDS — 3 GOALS, (HAT TRICK)
3. JUSTIN SILER - MISFITS — 3 GOALS, 2 ASSIST (HAT TRICK)

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French President Nicolas Sarkozy delivers a speech to magistrates and policemen who took part in the investigations into the attacks on seven people and siege of gunman Mohamed Merah's house. KENZO TRIBOUILLARD, POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police fear French gunman had help

Accomplice? A video of attacks on soldiers and Jewish school sent to news network by unknown individual

A video apparently showing a Muslim gunman's attacks on soldiers and a Jewish school was sent to the Al-Jazeera news network — but not by him, French police said Tuesday, raising the spectre of a possible accomplice.

Al-Jazeera on Tuesday decided not to air a video that seems to have been filmed from the killer's point of view and includes the cries of his victims.

The decision came after President Nicolas Sarkozy asked the network not to broadcast it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Video

- A French official said the video was not sent by Merah, 23, who died in a police shootout.
- Another official said the envelope sent to Al-Jazeera contained postmarks from a large postal processing centre for the area around Toulouse.

Talks. Annan makes progress toward ceasefire in Syria

Diplomacy. Former UN head gets crucial support for plan from Russia and China

Kofi Annan
LINTAO ZHANG/POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN envoy Kofi Annan said Tuesday he has received the backing of both Syria and China for his plan for a negotiated end to the bloody Syrian conflict.

Annan believes Syria's acceptance of the peace plan is an important first step that now needs to be immediately implemented, his spokesman said.

A Paris-based member of the opposition Syrian National Council said it welcomes the Syrian government's decision.

"We hope that we can move toward a peace process," Bassma Kodmani said by telephone.

Annan, who is also an envoy for the Arab League, told reporters after meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in Beijing on Tuesday that he had received a "positive" response from Syria as well as support from China.

He said he received a similar commitment from Russia over the weekend.

"We've had very good discussions about the situation in Syria. And they have offered me their full support," Annan said after the meeting with Wen.

Wen said work on a solution to the crisis is at a "critical juncture," adding that China backed Annan's mediation efforts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peace plan

The six points of UN envoy Kofi Annan's peace plan for Syria, which have been accepted by the Syrian government.

- **More talks.** Syria commits to work with Annan "in an inclusive Syrian-led political process to address the legitimate aspirations and concerns of the Syrian people."
- **Ceasefire.** Syria commits to stop fighting and immediately stop troop movements and use of heavy weapons in populated areas. Annan will seek similar commitments from the opposition.
- **Daily pause.** Syria implements a daily two-hour "humanitarian pause" to deliver aid and evacuate the injured.
- **Release prisoners.** Syria commits to intensify "the pace and scale of release of arbitrarily detained persons."
- **Allow journalists.** Syria commits to ensure freedom of movement throughout the country for journalists.
- **Allow demonstrations.** Syria commits to "respect freedom of association and the right to demonstrate peacefully as legally guaranteed."

Protesters own streets in Northern Syria

In this citizen-journalism image taken on Monday, anti-regime protesters march in Binish town in Idlib province, northern Syria. EDLIB NEWS NETWORK /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reaction

U.S. skeptical about Syria peace plan

The Obama administration seemed wary Tuesday that President Bashar Assad's regime may use its apparent willingness to compromise as cover to press on with a year-long political crackdown.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton cautiously welcomed the Syrian government's endorsement of the six-point plan that calls for an immediate ceasefire with rebels. She said it was an important step toward peace but stressed that Assad now has to deliver.

"Given Assad's history of over-promising and under-delivering, that commitment must now be matched by immediate action," Clinton told reporters in Washington. "We will judge Assad's sincerity and seriousness by what he does, not by what he says. If he is ready to bring this dark chapter in Syria's history to a close, he could prove it by immediately ordering regime forces to stop firing and begin withdrawing from populated areas."

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Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

ACTION PLAN

Canada

WHO treaty. 174 member states prepped to crack down on worldwide tobacco smuggling

A large chunk of the world is closing in on a treaty to crack down on tobacco smuggling, a practice that is estimated to cost governments up to $50 billion in tax revenue each year, the World Health Organization said Tuesday.

Diplomats from 174 WHO member states are expected to have a draft treaty by the time they meet in South Korea later this year, the global body said. A handful of countries including the United States, Indonesia, Argentina, Switzerland and 15 others are not participating in the negotiations, meaning the treaty wouldn't apply there unless they join later.

Negotiators meeting in Geneva on Thursday still need to bridge differences on issues such as duty-free and Internet sales, supply-chain tracking and extradition of alleged smugglers. If those issues are resolved, a draft will be put to countries meeting in Seoul on Nov. 12-17.

A key part of the treaty is a planned tracking system that will require all cigarette packages to be marked in such a way that customs officials can trace their origin.

WHO's Dr. Haik Nikogosian said this would help law-enforcement authorities determine the route by which tobacco products are smuggled, something he said often happens with the consent of cigarette manufacturers.

"Many criminal activities are fuelled and organized by the industry," he told reporters in Geneva. At least 10 per cent of worldwide cigarette sales are estimated to result from smuggling, which is becoming increasingly lucrative as cash-strapped governments raise duties on tobacco products.

Cigarette companies were barred from a 2009 WHO meeting on tobacco smuggling over concerns they were trying to influence delegates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barbarians at his gate

Canadian Pacific Rail president and CEO Fred Green speaks in Calgary in 2011. The CEO took aim Tuesday at Hunter Harrison, his erstwhile counterpart at the railroad's biggest rival and the man an activist investor wants to install in his place. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Real estate

U.S. housing prices keep on falling

Home prices fell in January for a fifth straight month in most major U.S. cities, as modest sales increases have yet to boost prices.

The Standard & Poor's Case-Shiller home-price index released Tuesday showed that prices dropped in January from December in 16 of 19 cities tracked.

The steepest declines were in San Francisco, Atlanta and Portland. Prices increased in Miami, Phoenix and Washington. Price information for Charlotte was delayed and therefore not included in the report. The declines partly reflect typical off-season sales. The month-over-month data are not adjusted for seasonal factors.

Still, prices fell in 17 of the 20 cities in January compared to the same month in 2011.

The group's nationwide index of prices has fallen 34 per cent since the housing bust and is now at 2002 levels.

The continued drop in prices suggests the housing market remains weak, even after the best winter for home sales in five years and steady improvement in the job market.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Investment

Enbridge extends reach of pipelines

The race to ship crude to Gulf Coast refineries has intensified, as Enbridge Inc. announced plans to invest nearly $4 billion on two expanded U.S. pipeline proposals.

Canada's largest crude transporter said late Monday its proposed Seaway project between the oversupplied Cushing, Okla., storage hub and the Gulf will be scaled up by 450,000 barrels per day, bringing that project's total capacity to 850,000 barrels per day.

Its proposed Flanagan South line from the Chicago area down to Cushing has been expanded to a 36-diameter line with a capacity of 585,000 barrels per day. Together with its existing Spearhead pipeline, customers will be able to ship 775,000 barrels per day from Flanagan, Ill., to Cushing.

The two projects will give producers in Western Canada and in the booming Bakken region of Saskatchewan, North Dakota and Montana "timely, economical and reliable options to deliver a variety of crudes to refinery hubs throughout the heart of North America and now as far as the Gulf Coast," said CEO Pat Daniel in a release.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A home up for sale in North Andover, Mass., is seen in this file photo.
ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
100.51¢
(-0.38¢)

TSX
12,512.04 (-62.75)

OIL
$107.33 US (+0.30¢)

GOLD
$1,684.90 US (-0.70¢)

Natural gas: $2.21 (-1.8¢) (per 1,000 cubic feet)
Dow Jones: 13,197.73 (-43.9)

Outlook

America confident about economy

Americans' rosy outlook about the U.S. economy remains resilient as they focus on the good in the barrage of conflicting economic news.

A barometer of consumer confidence barely budged in March after last month hitting the highest level it had been in a year. Americans continued to be upbeat in March despite mixed economic signs. The stock market is up, but gas prices are, too. Unemployment is falling, but home prices also are declining.

Lynn Franco, director of private research group The Conference Board Consumer Research Center, said consumers "feel the economy is not losing momentum."

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer-confidence index fell slightly to 70.2. That's down from a revised 71.6 in February — the highest level it's been since the same month in 2011.

Consumer confidence has made a recovery since it fell to an all-time low of 25.3 in February 2009. But the March reading is below the 90 reading that indicates a healthy economy. The index hasn't been near 90 since December 2007.

Economists watch consumer confidence closely because Americans' spending on things from clothing to health care accounts for about 70 per cent of the nation's economic activity. One gauge of the consumer-confidence index, which measures how shoppers feel now about the economy, rose to 51 from 46.4 in the previous month. That measure now stands at the highest level in more than three years. But the other barometer, which assesses shoppers' six-month outlook, declined to 83 from 88.4 in February.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLORADO KIDS GET EGGED ON

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

This is a story about an Easter egg hunt.

Of course, this is me, so it's a story about an Easter egg hunt gone horribly wrong.

The annual Easter egg hunt in Colorado Springs was called off this year because last year a mob of crazed parents leaped over the rope into an area restricted to kids and gathered up all the eggs before the kids knew what was happening.

When asked to explain his shocking behaviour, one dad explained: "You better believe I'm going to help my kid get one of those eggs. I promise my kid an Easter egg hunt, and I'd want to give him an even edge," he told The Associated Press.

Parents on the hunt

"We've come a long way from the days when my generation was growing up: our parents used to throw us out of the cave in the morning with instructions to go and frolic with the mastodons and the sabre-toothed tigers while they pursued their Mad Men dreams and schemes."

Left groping to explain all those adults gone wild, one expert blames "helicopter parents" and "millennial children." Today's parents, so the theory goes, are so anxious to prevent little Logan or Olivia from experiencing Early Disappointment Syndrome (I made that up) they'll turn an Easter egg hunt into blood sport. If Olivia falls victim to EDS, her self-esteem will suffer and she won't be able to get into the best schools and take her rightful place among the Masters and Mistresses of the Universe.

It's the same at the rink, the soccer pitch, the birthday party, dance class and wherever else helicopter parents hover. My favourite is that millennial kids are now taking their parents to their job interviews so that Mr. and Ms. Helicopter can make sure Olivia gets a fair shake during the interview and the inevitable negotiation that follows.

We've come a long way from the days when my generation was growing up: our parents used to throw us out of the cave in the morning with instructions to go and frolic with the mastodons and the sabre-toothed tigers while they pursued their Mad Men dreams and schemes.

I swear we would play entire seasons of hockey outdoors — and never see a single parent standing on the snow banks, which makes sense, as your face would freeze after a minute's exposure to the wind chill. I used to take big hits in the hope I would get injured and be able to go into the shack and sit next to the heater.

Now kids play in world-class arenas or stadiums, complete with team doctors and publicists. And a squadron of helicopter parents, hovering in formation like killer bees.

Making sure nothing interesting happens to their kids.

But let's see what I can do. Kid? Listen up. There's no such thing as the Easter Bunny anyway.

We know of some unlucky kids who won't be getting an Easter egg hunt this year. GETTY IMAGES

A blast from the past

A copy of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, dated Thursday, March 21, 1912, is held up after the opening of a time capsule buried 100 years ago at GE Lighting's Nela Park world headquarters Monday in Cleveland. TONY DEJAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TONY DEJAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bright idea

Five of the century-old light bulbs placed next to a time capsule buried 100 years ago at GE's Lighting's Nela Park world headquarters Monday in Cleveland. Enclosed in the time capsule were also historical lighting-industry brochures and other artifacts.

TONY DEJAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

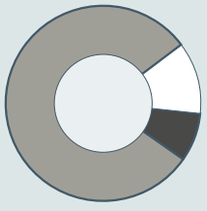
The board

A photo of GE's board of directors in 1912 is held up.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What did you think of the Mad Men season premiere?



80% I DIDN'T WATCH

12% LOVED IT

8% DIDN'T LIVE UP TO THE HYPE

Twitter

@kpyeoman:
Just witnessed a 20 something give a homeless man lunch she prepared specifically for him. Gen Y does think about others, too! #LDNONT

@Tony_Curcio:
Im looking for a team to join this summer. If you need players let me know. #soccer #ldnont

@ALEXANDRAAROSS_:
my Mother keeps bringing up all the things we have to buy for residents when I go to #Fanshawe. Shes getting me way to excited.

@__meggy:
only 3 papers and 3 exams standing in the way of graduation... #homestretch #westernu

@maxbesworth:
A far as I'm concerned, this year at #westernu has been more about extra-curriculars than it is about class #3rdyrnursing #toomuchfun

metro

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2
SCENE

Scene in brief

Is that Harry Potter on your Kindle?

At last, Harry Potter's adventures are available electronically. The seven novels about J.K. Rowling's boy wizard are for sale as ebooks and audio books on the author's Pottermore website, the site's creators announced Tuesday. The books are currently available in English, in U.S. and U.K. editions, priced at $7.99 for ebooks and $29.99 for audio versions. The site says French, Italian, German and Spanish editions will follow in the coming weeks. The Harry Potter novels have sold 450 million copies, but Rowling for years resisted making the books available in digital form. She announced last year that Potter ebooks would be sold through the Pottermore site, an interactive portal into Harry's magical world.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Man pleads guilty in Los Angeles in celebrity hacking case involving Christina Aguilera, Scarlett Johansson

Billy Zane starred opposite Kate Winslet in Titanic. CONTRIBUTED

Titanic was a 'game-changer'

An interview with Billy Zane. The Titanic baddie returns, only this time in 3D

KIERON MONKS
scene@metronews.ca

It's been 15 years since Titanic reduced us all to sobbing wrecks, and smashed box-office records.

Now James Cameron's classic is being reissued in eye-popping 3D and we caught up with its sharp-suited villain Cal Hockley, also known as Billy Zane.

How did the original Titanic change your life?
It was an incredible calling card. Titanic was an invitation to the tables of sovereign leaders for whatever you wanted to leverage, in my case charities. It was a game-changer, and a great honour to be canonized in the pantheon of significant movies.

Having played such a villain — are you worried about a new wave of unpopularity with the 3D release?
Oh, been there, done that, I'm well versed from the first time. There's actually been a new perspective on Cal. Perhaps revisiting the movie has helped people see him through a different lens and have more sympathy.

You're not experiencing hostility?
Men say I was a terrible shot and women are in two camps. The ones who were swept up in Leo-mania and can't believe I was in the way of true love, and the slyer ones with an appetite for jewelry who thought Rose was mad to leave Cal.

The most important thing for me was to mine understanding. The burden of the era was placed upon him too; he had a lot to manage. Collectively we were always analyzing, looking for opportunities to disarm the audience.

Does a real man make his own luck?
But of course.

Would you have liked anything about living in 1912?
Life before cellphones! Also the lost art of craftsmanship. I miss things being well made. Architecture and craftsmanship standards in general have fallen.

How do you and the ocean get along?
I forged my career at sea in Dead Calm, where I played a nutter on a boat. I do well at sea, the boats just got bigger. In real life? It makes it very hard to charter one.

What will audiences get out of this reissue?
It depends what audience. Most have seen the film before, so they're going in with comforting expectation. It's much like seeing an anthem band from the 1980s; waiting for the big hit, fired up nostalgically for when the first chord hits and you're transported to a time and place.

The device of 3D allows the filmmaker to keep the audience off balance — it's an unpredictable space that allows heartstrings to be manipulated.

After 3D, what other new forms of Titanic could be created?
I think a role-play game in real time from the moment of impact or just before is probably something they might consider.

It's easy to forget this is all based on a historic tragedy. How has all this affected you?
More so than before. I saw a segment of the voyage on the (BBC) One Show I had never seen before. While watching it I had a very uneasy feeling. For the original, the tragedy hadn't hit me. We were always caught up in the artifice of film. Now it's different, I feel the weight.

Titanic trivia

A few lesser know facts about the movie (courtesy of IMDB).

- **Leo love.** The studios actually wanted Matthew McConaughey, but James Cameron insisted on Leonardo DiCaprio.
- **Budget.** At $200 million, the movie cost more than the Titanic itself. The cost to construct the ship in 1910-1912 was $7.5 million at the time and about $120 to $150 million in 1997 dollars.

He's got the acting chops, but Clive Owen may be almost famous forever

Flying under the fame radar. Why Clive Owen isn't a mega-star and why he maybe doesn't want to be

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Clive Owen should be breathing the same air as George Clooney and Will Smith; that crystal clean A-lister air that only the rarified few ever get to sample.

He ought to be a massive movie star, but despite smouldering good looks and some big hits like Children of Men and The Inside Man, he isn't.

Last year the Globe and Mail noted that Owen "remains just below popular radar" despite "critical acclaim for his acting chops." He's a Golden Globe and BAFTA winner and an Oscar nominee, so the acting chops aren't in doubt, but being a movie star and being a good actor are not mutually exclusive. If so, Sam Rockwell and Casey Affleck would be superstars.

So why isn't Owen in the mega leagues?

Partly by choice. It's said that he prefers a quiet life in the coastal town of Harwich, England, with his wife of almost two decades and children, to walking a red carpet.

Fair enough, but I think the eclecticism of his choices prevents audiences from getting a handle on him.

This weekend, for instance, he plays a protective father who battles a bogeyman named Hollowface to protect his daughter in the horror film Intruders.

It's not the first time he's played a family man but in very different kinds of films, with varying portrayals.

In Trust he was a sensitive father shattered by his daughter's involvement with an online predator and in The Boys Are Back he had to learn how to be a father to two kids he barely knew after his on-screen wife died.

CLIVE OWEN AS JOHN FARROW IN INTRUDERS. COURTESY MILLENIUM ENTERTAINMENT

Then there is the long list of action movies on his resumé. He has punched, kicked and shot his way through violent films that relied on cartoon theatrics like Shoot 'Em Up and Sin City, espionage thrillers like Killer Elite and The International and even spy comedies like The Pink Panther.

Then there are the swashbuckling period pieces like King Arthur and Elizabeth: The Golden Age, where he's all ruffles and chain mail, and Gosford Park, a murder mystery set in 1932, where he plays Robert Parks, the valet to a wealthy land owner.

The only constants connecting Owen's movies are his charisma — "I don't 'do' emotion," he says. "Emotions are overrated. I'm more interested in creating a presence" — and his acting ability. Mega star or not, no one can deny the guy has presence no matter what the role.

Owen's take on his acting

"I don't 'do' emotion. Emotions are overrated. I'm more interested in creating a presence."
Clive Owen

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Fergie

Fergie wants to add peas to her family pod

After three years of marriage to Josh Duhamel, Fergie is up for having kids — just not now.

"It's not happening yet, I can tell you that definitely," Fergie says, according to Hollyscoop. "But we want to have a family, so that's in the cards, but it's just not this second."

The continued wait has to do with the fact that, with a lighter Black Eyed Peas schedule, the singer finally has time to spend with her husband.

"Eight years of being on the road, and now I've been off the road, what, five months?" she says.

"I'm enjoying this time of just being home for that long a period."

The Word

Hollywood women love the bad boy

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

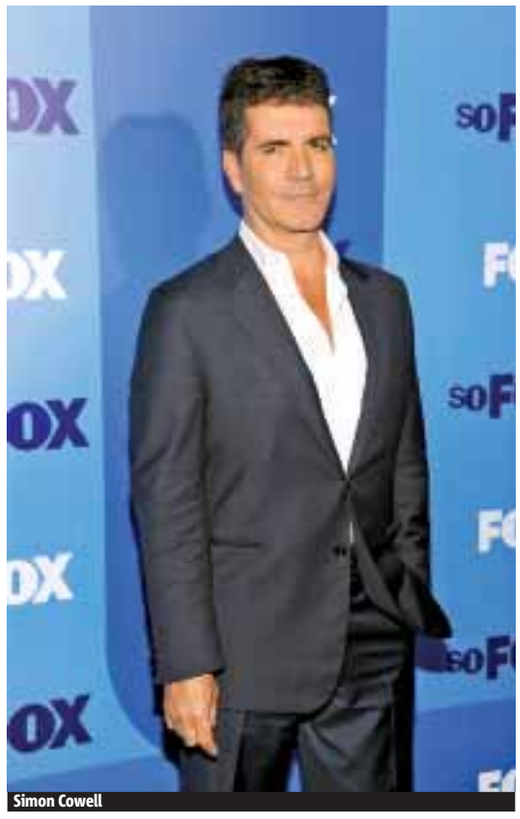
In a recent column, I brought up the news that everyone's favourite '90s goth (besides blood-sucking era Angelina Jolie), Marilyn Manson, is dating chanteuse Lana Del Rey. And, perhaps it was shallow of me, but I asked what it was about the creepy rocker that attracted some of Hollywood's most beautiful women (Rose McGowan, Dita Von Teese, Evan Rachel Wood are three of his most famous conquests). Luckily, you wrote in:

"The best I can do is remember that ignorance is a natural part of the human process."

"He's creepy outwardly, I'll grant you and beyond strange. He is also intelligent, well spoken, charming (when he wants to be) and masculine (despite the make-up and freaky gender-bending BDSM clothing)…. He's good at making interesting conversation and accomplished at drawing women in. A fine predator of the male species."

"The answer is so simple that you missed it completely! Ask yourself how Ric Ocasek got Paulina? The reason you don't get it is that you are not a fan of Marilyn Manson. Your biased view inhibits your clarity."

My biased view? No. It's just curious. I'd like to file this under that weird phenomenon of how once-popular Hollywood men whose careers are currently on a downward slide—see: Wilmer Valderrama; Macaulay Culkin — still get so many successful, hot girlfriends and George Clooney gets a former WWE wrestler. Ladies, I'd like a word.



Simon Cowell

Crazed fan goes after X Factor creator Simon Cowell

Simon Cowell had a close encounter with an obsessed fan when a brick-wielding woman broke into his London home and came face to face with the X Factor boss before getting nabbed by his on-site security, according to the Washington Post.

"It came from the bathroom, so he went in," Max Clifford, Cowell's spokesperson, said in a statement.

"She had smashed her way in through the window, and it was unclear how long she had been there or what she was doing."

Clifford adds that Cowell was shaken by the scare.

"It was a very frightening experience for Simon, who told me it was like something from a horror movie," he says.

Getting smashed

"She had smashed her way in through the window, and it was unclear how long she had been there or what she was doing."

Max Clifford, Cowell's spokesperson

Twitter

@MileyCyrus
I'm not engaged. I've worn this same ring on this finger since November! People just wanna find something to talk about! It's a topaz people!

@andersoncooper
I just started running again, but don't think I could do a marathon

@KChenoweth
I wish it was my bday today. I need a present.

@ConanOBrien
Got my oil changed downtown just so I could tweet something that sounded dirty.

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There's lots to love about Paris in springtime

French immersion.
As the days get longer and the sun warms the city, now is the time to let your love for France blossom

AURÉLIE RESCH
travel@metronews.ca

Spring is in the air. Students are out night and day, lovers cuddle on benches in the city's parks, the atmosphere is serene and the pace in Paris is pretty relaxed as days get longer. As I stroll along the shores of La Seine, I can't help thinking of the light spirited Woody Allen movie. Like Gil, the main character of Midnight in Paris, I embrace everything I come across in the French capital with delight and gratitude.

The soft light playing on the glass panels of the Louvre pyramids is a painting worth as much as the most notorious exhibited inside. Talking with the booksellers by the Seine in order to find a copy of an ancient manuscript brings me joy.

March is a lazy month with unpredictable mood swings. As it gets warmer during the day, I look for some shade in le Jardin du Luxembourg.

In this great recreational park of the 5th arrondissement (district) of Paris, I take pleasure in looking at children playing with miniature sailboats on the main basin and at the statues scattered in the park picturing romance, love, desire and revenge (I imagine).

A sudden shower pushes me down in the subway heading to the Quai Branly for an escape to the museum of cultures and civilizations. This fascinating place created by former French president Jacques Chirac offers a complete, clever and well displayed collection of craft, arts and history that reflects the richness and variety of the many cultures around the world.

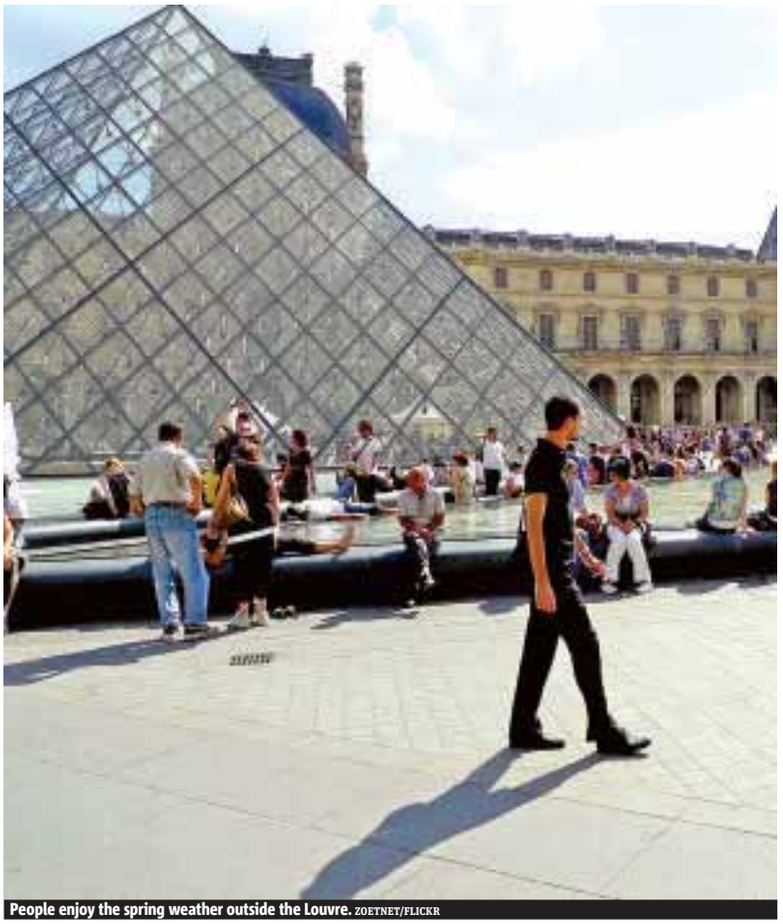
As the night falls, the rain has stopped and the temperature is still good enough to hang out. I walk up the Champs Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe, just because it feels great to stroll along this notorious avenue and I stop at the Fouquet's to enjoy a meal in a very expensive café, looking at ecstatic tourists and young families heading back home. Then I head to Place de l'Odéon to have dinner in one of the numerous restaurants in this tiny passage where artists, students and wealthy people meet and talk through the night. I have a hard decision to make: should I sit at Le Procope, a Parisian institution, or opt for the friendly atmosphere and the amazing desert of La Jacobine?

As if the excellent meal was not enough to please my palate, I walk up on Saint Germain to stop at the chocolate boutique of famous maître-chocolatier Larnicol.

I indulge in delicacies in this chocolate palace. It's now time to burn it off with some jazz. The Quartier Latin is a vibrant place where life is bustling and the night is always young. There are plenty of clubs to listen to music in and many opportunities to mingle with a happy crowd.

Spring in Paris calls for long errands. The city offers it all: elegant architecture, fancy stores and interesting urban sketches… Yes, indeed, the Parisian cliché is a delightful experience!

Maybe love will strike at the corner of a café or on the sidewalk of Notre Dame and just like for Gil; a young charismatic stranger will turn my Parisian experience into a romance.


People enjoy the spring weather outside the Louvre. ZOETNET/FLICKR

The shores of the Seine is a great place for a stroll. RIEH/FLICKR

Maybe love will strike you at the Arc de Triomphe or on the sidewalk of Notre Dame this spring. FLICKR

3 LIFE

Stamp

Queen puts stamp on exhibit

Regular mail — the kind with a stamp on it — isn't the everyday fact of life it used to be. And that means we might not get to see the Queen as often as Canadians did in the past. The Canadian Postal Museum in Gatineau, Que., is marking Elizabeth's diamond jubilee with an exhibition of over 600 stamps issued since 1952 that bear her likeness. "This collection of postal portraits provides an excellent historical account of one of many examples of the Queen's presence in the everyday lives of Canadians," Heritage Minister James Moore said in a release. "Designed for a Queen: Celebrating the 60-year Reign of Queen Elizabeth II through Stamps" features stamps from Canada, other Commonwealth countries and British overseas territories. Places represented include Jamaica, Belize, Gibraltar, Tuvalu, Swaziland, Papua New Guinea and the Falkland Islands.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the Web

Beagle at Kennedy Airport sniffs out contraband food hidden in international luggage

Skip the fattening cream and butter — and rethink a classic turkey casserole

Ingredients

- 375 g (12 oz) whole-grain spaghetti, broken into pieces
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) canola oil
- 250 g (8 oz) cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- Salt and ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 bunch asparagus, trimmed and cut into pieces
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and diced
- 10 ml (2 tsp) onion powder, divided
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) paprika, divided
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) dry sherry
- 750 ml (3 cups) cubed cooked turkey breast
- 500 ml (2 cups) fat-free half-and-half
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) instant-blend flour
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) grated Parmesan cheese
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) panko breadcrumbs
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) garlic powder
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped fresh parsley

1. Heat oven to 200 C (400 F). Coat a large casserole dish with cooking spray.

2. Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil and cook spaghetti according to package directions. Drain and set aside.

3. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat oil. Add mushrooms and garlic, then season with salt and black pepper. Sauté until mushrooms are well browned and release all their liquid, about 10 minutes. Add asparagus and red pepper and cook for another 4 minutes.

4. Stir in 5 ml (1 tsp) of the onion powder, 5 ml (1 tsp) of the paprika and sherry. Cook for 1 minute, then remove from heat. Add turkey and set aside.

5. In a small saucepan over low heat, bring half-and-half to a simmer. Whisk in instant-blend flour, then bring to a boil. Cook until thickened, about 1 minute. Remove pan from heat and stir in Parmesan. Season with salt and pepper.

6. In a small bowl, stir together panko, garlic powder, parsley, remaining 5 ml (1 tsp) onion powder and remaining 2 ml (1/2 tsp) paprika.

7. To assemble casserole, stir cooked spaghetti and cream sauce into skillet with turkey and vegetables. Spoon mixture into prepared casserole dish, then sprinkle seasoned panko over it. Spritz top of panko crumbs with cooking spray and bake for 10 to 15 minutes or until golden.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turkey Tetrazzini

This recipe serves eight. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the week

Skyy Spring Fling

- Skyy vodka
- 0.5 oz passionfruit liqueur
- 0.25 oz simple syrup
- Juice of half a lemon
- Starfruit
- Sparkling wine

Muddle a starfruit in shaker. Add remaining ingredients, except sparkling wine, and shake to combine. Strain into a champagne flute. Top with sparkling wine and garnish with a slice of starfruit.

SKYY SPIRITS

Savoury turkey crêpes ideal for a light lunch

1. In a large bowl, make a well in the centre of the flour. In a second bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, stock, oil and melted butter. Pour liquid ingredients into flour and blend well using a wire whisk. If batter is lumpy, pass through a sieve. Add parsley and cheese to smooth batter, cover and refrigerate for 15 minutes.

2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and oregano and sauté until softened. Add turkey and cook until starting to brown. Add mushrooms, sage and peppers and sauté for 5 minutes. Add mushroom soup and broth and bring to a boil. Set heat to low and keep mixture warm.

3. Heat oiled crêpe pan or frying pan over medium-low heat. Spread one ladle of batter on pan, swirling pan until batter is close to the sides. Cook until batter is set and the edges start to curl. Flip and remove.

4. Divide turkey mixture among 16 crepes. Place filling on one edge of the crepe and roll. Serve sprinkled with Parmesan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients

Crêpe Batter
- 500 ml (2 cups) flour
- 8 eggs
- 250 ml (1 cup) milk
- 250 ml (1 cup) chicken stock
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) vegetable oil
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) melted butter
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped parsley
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) Parmesan cheese, plus extra for serving
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Cooking oil

Turkey Filling
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) oregano
- 750 g (1 1/2 lb) turkey breast, cut into strips
- 250 ml (1 cup) mushrooms
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) chopped fresh sage
- 250 ml (1 cup) thinly sliced red peppers
- 250 ml (1 cup) thinly sliced orange peppers
- 2 cans (each 284 ml/10 oz) cream of mushroom soup
- 500 ml (2 cups) broth
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Savoury Turkey Crêpes

This recipe serves six to eight. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Andrew Johnson has the job you wanted when you were six years old

LEGO legend. For this young man, the building blocks to success have been bright, shiny and stackable

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Evidently, confidence in your ability will help you stand out from some tough competition. ISTOCK

As the new Master Model Builder of LEGOLAND Discovery Center Chicago, 23-year-old Andrew Johnson designs 3D LEGO models for the families that visit.

Last week, he completed his first display since starting full-time at the beginning of the month.

"I just made a cardinal — that's the state bird of Illinois," he tells us. "It's a lot of fun to be able to design something and watch it come into creation so fast."

Plenty of aspects of the job could be described as "a lot of fun," which is why the position isn't easy to come by. There are only four master model builders in the U.S. and an additional eight abroad. Johnson landed the gig after competing against eight other finalist applicants in a "build-off," during which he created a replica of Chicago's Daley Plaza Picasso sculpture, a model of the Lorax using less than 40 LEGO pieces and an especially tricky audience-member request: a violin and a hands-free harmonica.

For now, Johnson — who is one credit shy of a degree in history from DePaul University — isn't concerned with big-picture career questions or especially eager to join his friends in the cubicles.

"It's one of the only toys I can think of that you don't grow out of," Johnson says of LEGOs. "I'm going to stay here as long as I'm having fun — which I can see being a long time."

Piece by piece

His building style

Johnson has been playing with LEGOs since he was a child, but sharpened his skills while working at a camp where the toys were used to teach architecture and engineering. "There are people who have a lot of kits, but I'm more of a free-builder – I haven't used instructions in a long time," he says. "I don't buy kits, just the basic building blocks. It's a lot of trial and error."

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Shopping around for the perfect job

World of opportunity. The retail business is about so much more than clothing, quotas and 'can I start a room for you?'

JOSÉ GONZALEZ
Talentegg.ca

Several streams of employment are available to students and recent grads seeking access into the retail industry, each one offering unique opportunities and requiring specific skill sets.

The opportunities within each of these streams cater to a wide variety of disciplines. Depending on your interests, there are positions within the retail industry in everything from fashion to business to marketing to interior decorating to industrial engineering and more!

There is a huge amount of variety within the retail industry and success involves the understanding of how all the individual pieces fit together.

Logistics and supply chain management

This is the essential role of getting products from suppliers through distribution centres and into the customers' hands. Being able to manage these interconnected parts becomes a greater concern as the size of the retailer increases.

Much of the knowledge required for this includes planning supply routes, finding affordable methods of transportation and ensuring there are never too many — or too few — of each product in stores.

Merchandising, marketing and sales

This can include buying, category management, inventory analysis, planning and allocation, marketing co-ordination, sales management, business development and loss prevention.

This particular area has made significant advancements in recent years and can vary considerably between individual retailers.

Technological advancements have allowed massive amounts of data to be collected, and currently the major issue is determining the most effective way of analyzing that data.

Having a background or familiarity with interpreting statistics is valuable here. Knowledge of the customers is key to these positions and being able to interpret that data will help further that goal

Operations management

These roles may include district or store management, and require a wide range knowledge and abilities.

They can include recruiting and hiring employees, managing inventories, implementing promotional strategies, and many other skill sets which vary across retailers.

These operations are the core of the business and where most of the actual money is made. The skills required for these positions can vary considerably depending on the retail outlet. However, a strong knowledge of the retailer's customer base and the products are key.

General corporate

These positions are ones most commonly shared by all businesses, such as IT, accounting and human resources. Within retail, the human resources role may exist at the corporate level or in field roles that require HR management across regions, or in large store locations.

Much of these particular corporate aspects of the retail industry are focused

An essential ingredient

Getting a job in the retail industry is not as straightforward as some, but here is one all-important tip:

- **Know the company.** Know its history, price points and competition. Visiting the stores (if possible) to look at and think critically about their assortment. Know where they sit in the industry. In addition, Alan Gryn, a director in the strategy and business improvement team at Sears, suggests trying to see if you can speak to any employees. Understand the difference between WalMart and Winners. WalMart is a discount store and Winners is off-price. Discount stores buy product at the same cost as everyone else but take lower markups.

Mira Saraf, Talentegg.ca

Showing off your design skills while indulging your love of shopping – could it get any better? ISTOCK

Twitter

@TalentEgg: Have you ever worked in #retail? What skills did you learn?

@Teresa_Kwon
asking questions about customer needs and recommending products rather than pushing certain brands!

@wtscrackolackin
All I #need2succeed in Retail: communication + teamplayer + leadership b/c someone's got to #getitdone #retailweek

@purohitdarshan1
how to interact with people of different tempraments

@kamadeep
An orientation towards customer service and professional oral communication for sure. But also LOTS of patience and empathy.

Moola matters

Average retail salaries

- **Sales Representative.** $24,000-$28,000
- **Buyer.** $39,166-$68,274
- **Assistant Manager.** $30,000-$55,000
- **Retail Analyst.** $40,594-$71,144
- **Operations Director.** $54,102-$154,252

Compiled by Elle Kamensky

NHL

Shoulder surgery ends Hall's season

Edmonton Oilers forward Taylor Hall is done for the season.

The team said Tuesday the 20-year-old will undergo surgery on his left shoulder.

Hall hasn't played since March 17 after suffering a concussion early in a 3-1 win over the Calgary Flames.

Oilers general manager Steve Tambellini says Hall will spend five to six months recovering.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taylor Hall
DALE MACMILLAN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

OHL

League doles out suspensions to Zanetti, Randell

The Ontario Hockey League suspended Kitchener Rangers forward Tyler Randell and Ottawa 67's defenceman Marc Zanetti for two separate incidents Tuesday.

Zanetti will sit out five games for a spearing incident prior to Game 2 of Ottawa's series with Belleville on Friday.

Meanwhile, Randell has been banned 10 games for his hit to the head of Owen Sound Attack centre Artur Gavrus in Game 1 of their first-round series.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto's Joey Crabb tries to clear the puck from in front of Jussi Rynnas' crease at the Air Canada Centre Tuesday. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leafs' playoff hopes end with a whimper

NHL. Toronto falls out of contention with 10th-straight loss at ACC

Tuesday's game

Hurricanes	Leafs
3	0

The precipitous fall of the Toronto Maple Leafs is complete.

A 3-0 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday night officially eliminated the Leafs from playoff contention in the Eastern Conference, extending the franchise-worst streak to seven seasons.

It was only fitting that the final blow came on home ice. Hours after new coach Randy Carlyle called the team's play at Air Canada Centre "unacceptable," they fell behind 3-0 early in the second period and lost their 10th-straight game in front of the disgruntled home fans.

The building began to empty long before the final horn sounded on Cam Ward's 21st career shutout. The Hurricanes goalie finished with 32 saves.

Jussi Jokinen, Tim Brent and Jay Harrison scored goals for Carolina (31-31-15), which kept its slim playoff hopes alive for another day.

The Maple Leafs saw their record fall to 33-35-9 after being shut out for the seventh time this season. Four of those have come in the past 10 games.

There was very little suspense on a night that saw Carolina grab a 2-0 lead in the first period. Leafs starter Jonas Gustavsson was deep in his net on both shots, allowing Jokinen to beat him with a back-hander at 13:05 and Brent to roof a shot at 18:19.

The second goal brought on boos that would only intensify when Harrison floated a shot past Gustavsson 37 seconds into the second period.

Carlyle responded by sending in Jussi Rynnas for the first NHL action of his career.

The Leafs attempted to come on from there — outshooting the Hurricanes 12-7 in the middle period — but the damage was already done and Ward wasn't going to be beaten. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reimer injured

Maple Leafs goalie James Reimer has been sidelined with an upper-body injury.

- Reimer took the morning skate Tuesday and was expected to start against the Hurricanes.
- There was no immediate word on what caused the injury and Jussi Rynnas was called up on an emergency basis from the Toronto Marlies.

4 SPORTS

Quoted

"I'd be lying through my teeth if I said there wasn't a risk. Of course there are health concerns; of course there's risk.... But I'll take the risk on the right human being; you bet on the human being and you're going to be fine."

Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos on Tuesday after signing pitcher Dustin McGowan to a contract extension. The deal, announced Monday, pays the right-hander $1.5 million US per season in 2013 and 2014 with a club option for 2015 worth $4 million. McGowan — currently day-to-day with plantar fasciitis in his right foot — has yet to prove his shoulder troubles are fully behind him and has pitched only 21 major-league innings since 2008.

On the web

Canadian figure-skating star Patrick Chan says if not for a move to Colorado before the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, he thinks he "would have quit." Now he's a gold-medal favourite going into this week's world championships in France. Scan the code for the story.

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5 DRIVE

Top Gear

A flare with flair

The days of carrying around traditional emergency flares might be nearing an end, especially when you take a look at the features of the GorillaTorch Flare from Joby, Inc. This little guy costs about $35 US and projects a bright white beam from its light emitting diode (LED) or a red light from its three red LEDs. The GorillaTorch Flare uses three AA batteries that provide about 20 hours of white light, 80 hours of strobing light or 60 hours of red light (240 hours of strobing red). If that seems like a lot of time, it is because LEDs take less power than the usual filament-style bulbs found in conventional flashlights. The light attaches to just about any surface since the three feet are magnetized and can be pretzelled around other not magnetic surfaces, which means it also doubles as a bright work light or a light for the backyard or campground. Read more about GorillaTorch Flare at joby.com.

Caddy enters a new weight class

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Lightweight

Where the ATS excels is its reasonable 1,545-kilogram curb weight. That's about 225 less than the CTS sedan (currently the only passenger car in the Cadillac garage). That's also less than most of the competition — which should help when the official fuel-consumption numbers are announced closer to launch time.

Safety first

The ATS is looking to match its competitors, stride for stride, in safety with up to 10 airbags plus an array of the latest in collision-avoidance gear.

This includes adaptive cruise control (maintains a safe distance from the vehicle in front) and lane-departure warning with blind-zone alert.

2013 Cadillac ATS

- **Type.** Four-door, rear- /all-wheel-drive compact sedan.
- **Engines (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (200); 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (270); 3.6-litre DOHC V6 (318).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 8.5/5.5 (2.5, est.).
- **Base Price:** $36,000.

The 270-horsepower turbo four-cylinder is found in other more mainstream GM brands.

Engine

Although the ATS will be available with a relatively potent 318-horsepower 3.6-litre V6, Cadillac is making available two different four-cylinder offerings.

Base cars get a 200-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder, while a 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder is optional.

Review. With boutique brands downsizing, there are hot deals on hot new cars for regular folks. This is one of them.

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Scaling back power, size and fuel consumption without scaling back the amenities is all the rage these days.

You could say that's the new Cadillac ATS's sole purpose in life.

But would you go as far as picking an ATS over a BMW 3-Series sedan?

Or, for that matter, an Audi A4, Mercedes-Benz C-Class, Infiniti G37 or a Lexus IS? Along with their generally compact size, efficient and still-potent powerplants and luxury accommodations, all of them also offer all-wheel-drive.

Well, that's what you can expect from the ATS, which arrives this summer.

Although clearly Cadillac-looking, the stylists have done a good job scaling down the brand's visual identity.

The result conveys plenty of elegance from every angle, especially around the grille and lower air intakes at one end and the abbreviated trunk lid and vertical taillight bars at other.

The overall shape doesn't dazzle and it's far from ground-breaking, but it is quite appealing.

No prices have been announced, but to maintain a certain spread below the $39,000 CTS and remain competitive with its classmates, you can expect the ATS to start in the $36,000 range.

That should earn it the once-over and a double take from shoppers — luxury or not — looking to trade down in size without giving up all the comfort.

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DREAMS INTO REALITY 40 YEARS PEACE OF MIND SERVICE

Tesla's model 'S'itizen

Autoknow. Electric cars are on the fringe for some automakers, while Tesla's very existence depends on them. Maybe that's why this sleek new hatchback with a 480-kilometre range seems so natural.

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

The Model S is designed by Franz von Holzhausen, who also designed the Saturn Sky and Pontiac Solstice roadsters. PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASE MEDIA

Whether we wanted it, the age of the electric car is upon us and their numbers are slowly growing. While most of the better-known brands are being built by mainstream automakers such as General Motors, Ford, Nissan and Mitsubishi, perhaps the best out-of-the-box thinking is coming from boutique automakers.

In this group is Tesla Motors, a Palo Alto, Calif., company founded by Elon Musk, creator of online money-transfer system Pay Pal.

Tesla (named for electrical development pioneer Nikola Tesla) has, since 2006, sold more than 2,100 of its $125,000-plus two-seater Roadster model. But, as a company spokesman explained at the North American International Auto Show in January, the Lotus Elise-based sports car's true importance was as a test bed for Tesla's electric powertrain technology. The next phase in the brand's development is the Model S four-door sedan, which will launch this summer. The car is being constructed at a plant in Fremont, Calif., that had been jointly operated by General Motors and Toyota.

Like all Tesla vehicles, the Model S operates on electric power only. It does not use a gasoline engine to generate electrical energy, as is the case with the Chevrolet Volt, which lacks the Model S's electric range. It's a highly unique vehicle on several fronts.

The aluminum-bodied, full-size four-door hatchback is roughly the same size as BMW's 5-series hatchback. However, the Model S design has more luggage space with the 60:40 back seat up or folded, not including an additional storage area under the hood.

Under the hood? Well, the 306-horsepower electric motor is actually positioned between the rear wheels, while the liquid-cooled lithium-ion battery layout unobtrusively forms part of a rigid platform that connects to the front and rear suspension.

Inside, the Model S can seat five adults plus two pint-sized, rear-facing passengers in the optional fold-up third row, not unlike those old station wagons of the 1950s and '60s.

Tesla claims the 40 kilowatt/hour (kWh) batteries in the base model are good for up to about 255 kilometres on a full charge. The range increases to about 365 kilometres if the 60 kWh powerpack is specified, while 480 kilometres is attainable with the 85-kWh option.

Performance is also affected, depending on the battery pack selected. Zero-to-60-m.p.h. (96 km/h) times vary from 6.5 seconds for the 40 kWh cars, to 5.6 seconds for the 85 kWh batteries (dropping to 4.4 seconds when the Performance version is specified).

By the numbers

$105,400

Model S pricing in the United States before government rebates runs from $57,400 to $105,400, but there's no word yet on what Canadians will pay.

Top speed runs 175-200 km/h, again depending on battery capacity, but driving the Model S with a heavy foot will certainly curtail its advertised range. The Model S lacks a conventional transmission, but instead uses a controller to initiate forward and reverse.

As with other electrics, charging the Model S can be accomplished by plugging into a standard 120-volt wall outlet from a port hidden behind the driver's-side taillight. Tesla says that each hour of charging gives the car about 50 kilometres of range, but that doubles when the optional 240-volt high-power wall connector is used. At that rate, a full charge for the 85 kWh model should be all wrapped up in about five hours.

Buy a fully-decked-out 85 kWh Model S and Tesla says you'll be able to access its new network of "Superchargers throughout North America" to give you about 255 kilometres of range in 30 minutes of charging.

The equipment list for the base cars is near-luxury and includes a cloth interior, seven-speaker 200-watt audio system and 19-inch wheels. Leather is optional as is a panoramic glass roof, carbon-fibre trim, power liftgate and 21-inch wheels.

The Model S represents Tesla's first in-house-designed vehicle and will be followed in 2014 by the Model X. That taller, roomier version of the Model S will feature dual-motor all-wheel-drive and four gullwing-style doors, called Falcon Wings.

Unusual and unique, of course, but Tesla's clean-sheet approach to emissions-free automobile design is what separates it from just about everything else on the market.

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Ion had coupe looks with sedan utility

Second Gear.
2003 to 2007
Saturn Ion

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

Ion was produced from 2003 to 2007 in either coupe or sedan body styles, replacing the "S" series in Saturn's lineup.

The coupe offered easy backseat access for people or pets by way of a useful set of "suicide" doors. Tucked in behind the front doors, these smaller openings allowed easier access to the rear seats while maintaining the looks of a coupe.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Engine

Four-cylinder ECOTEC engines were fitted to all models, including a 2.4-litre unit with 170 horsepower. Look for automatic, manual or continually variable transmissions. Avoid the latter.

What Owners Like

Coupe looks combined with sedan utility are among the strong points stated by Ion Coupe owners. Selection, fresh styling and overall value were also rated highly, as was ride comfort.

What Owners Dislike

Complaints typically include a "cheap" feel to the cabin trim and limited rear-seat space for larger adults.

Common Issues

Listen for any unusual or sporadic rattling sounds from under the hood, which could be caused by loose exhaust manifold bolts. This isn't a huge issue if diagnosed properly.

Check for proper and quiet operation from the climate-control fan and temperature controls. A ticking noise when the fan is working could be caused by a loose or broken cover. Ensure the power sunroof is working, along with the turn signals. Note that a lumpy or awkward idle could be caused by a malfunction in the engine computer, which would require reprogramming to fix. Finally, avoid the CVT transmission — which was axed from the powertrain lineup due to reliability issues.

Verdict

Avoid a used Ion model with the CVT transmission, and you'll likely enjoy a unique, cheap-to-run compact car with affordable pricing and a good sense of style.

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Driving Force. Redline: Your car's keeping an eye on it

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

If your car has a tachometer, it may also have a red mark around the higher numbers. It's a warning, appropriately named "redline," but thanks to new auto technologies, it's not as dangerous as it used to be.

"Redline is the maximum rotational speed at which the engine can be operated," says Hayato Mori, manager of production planning for Honda Canada.

"Nothing is indestructible. Everything has its limits."

Engines contain pistons that move up and down, powered by the force of gasoline igniting. This movement turns a heavy crankshaft, similar to the way your legs work the pedals on a bicycle. The crankshaft's spinning motion eventually turns the wheels.

The crankshaft's motion is measured in revolutions per minute, or r.p.m. It's also called the "engine speed" and is indicated by the needle on the tachometer. The engine speed will go up or down depending on how fast you're going or what gear you're in. The crankshaft is very strong, but it does have its limits.

The tachometer on a Honda CR-Z shows the redline area. HONDA CANADA

"If you spin (a crankshaft) fast enough, it will create a vibration," Mori says.

"If the vibration is too great, it will start to affect the structure and operation of the engine. You have a heavy piston head supported by a rod, and it will get to a point where you will damage the rod."

The damage in that worst-case scenario could possibly mean complete engine failure. Fortunately, modern cars are equipped to prevent such a problem. If the engine speed goes to redline, the car's control system takes over, cutting back on the throttle and immediately dropping to a safe r.p.m.

That intervention is more likely with a manual transmission, where it's possible for the driver to keep the car in a lower gear while revving the engine, potentially putting it into the danger zone. Cars with automatic transmissions also have the throttle cut-off system, but are less likely to need it, since they will shift to a higher gear once the r.p.m. rises sufficiently.

Redline is more of a problem on older cars, which may not have a fail safe, and drivers have to be careful to keep the engine below the warning area.

Some drivers like to run each gear to the allowable maximum for a racy feel, "but we don't recommend it because in the long range, it won't be good for the engine," Mori says.

"Every machine has its operating parameter, and when we put those red lines on the tachometer, we do it for a reason."

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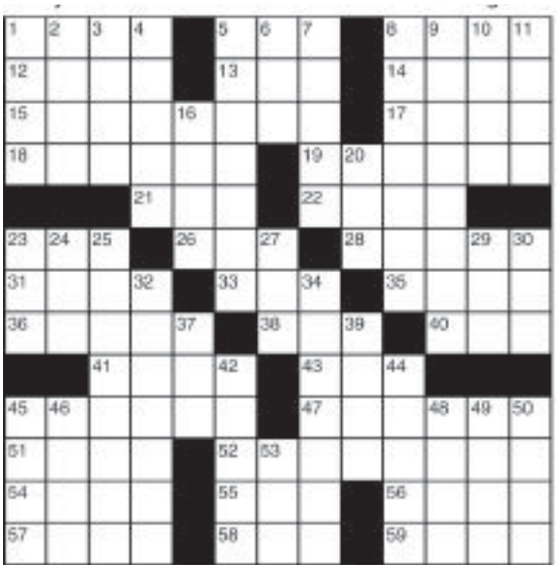
Crossword



Across

1 Comic strip penguin
5 Witness
8 Slightly
12 Kate's role in "Titanic"
13 Luau bowlful
14 Bro
15 Very active
17 Capri, e.g.
18 Overexert
19 It's handy if you have to break your word
21 — -la-la
22 Roger Rabbit, e.g.
23 "Great!"
26 Performance
28 Exhaust
31 Egg
33 Kangaroo's move
35 Betty's "Hot in Cleveland" role
36 Frankincense or myrrh
38 Third degree?
40 Moon craft
41 Stepped (on)
43 Thing, in law
45 Meager
47 Aviatrix Earhart
51 Jason's ship
52 Profession
54 Quartet
55 Salt Lake athlete
56 Garfield's pal
57 Salamanders
58 Petrol
59 -tat-tat

Down

1 Spheres
2 Sulk
3 Cold War nation (Abbr.)
4 Attack
5 Popeye's "fuel"
6 A billion years
7 Twice 54-Across
8 Fat
9 "Sex and the City" writer Candace
10 Not working
11 Adolescent
16 Old Italian money
20 Thee
23 Supporting
24 Rd.
25 Laugh so hard it hurts
27 Upper surface
29 Guitar's cousin
30 Nonstick spray
32 Kaleidoscope components
34 Groups of words
37 Ph. bk. info
39 Ms. Moore
42 Clean, as software
44 Man of La Mancha
45 Protected
46 College teacher, often
48 Mother of Castor and Pollux
49 "— an earthquake, or ..."
50 Cruising
53 Actress Hagen

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

					9		4	
2	3				4	8		
	5		1			2		
	9			4	7		6	
4								2
	6		3	8			1	
		7			6		8	
		8	9				5	7
	4		7					

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

4	8	3	9	6	7	1	2	5
7	2	1	4	8	5	6	9	3
9	6	5	1	2	3	4	7	8
1	5	4	7	9	8	2	3	6
8	3	6	2	5	4	9	1	7
2	7	9	3	1	6	5	8	4
3	1	7	6	4	9	8	6	2
6	9	8	5	7	2	3	4	1
5	4	2	8	3	1	7	6	9

Send a kiss

- **Guy From The University.** Hey! i dont even know if you read this newspaper but its worth a try! have had a crush on you for a while now! really wanna talk to you but nerves always get the best of me :(I dont know anything about you but would love to hang out and know more :) <3 <3 From Girl From The Univeristy
- **boo bity booboo.** I do love you i do, like seriously how hard is it to just send me an inbox message saying it was me, end of story, end of fighting, we dont even have to talk, i just want to KNOW this is you. I wont even add you i just need some closer. you shy, well i was too and what i sent you was for more embarassing than what im asking you to do!!! Then you justmade me feel even more crazy!!! So please. From Denny
- **Mea.** mea culpa... pls forgive me. i do care, tho i m 2shy to show it. my heart was locked in a blackbox till you cared, u may hold the key to our happiness so pls help me unlock it. mountains of regret i've carried on with a shrug, but i won't let this precious love shatter. From sad

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. If someone attacks your reputation today you must defend yourself.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You can't seem to make up your mind what you should be doing with your precious time.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You must think positive today, especially when dealing with situations where negative words could so easily lead to negative consequences.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. What you most need is close at hand but you can't seem to see it.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Think seriously about your money situation today. The answers to your problems are not really that difficult.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Go your own way and do your own thing today.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You need to trust your instincts today, even when – especially when – they tell you things you don't want to hear.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Focus only on things that are relevant to your long-term success.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You may have to make a tactical retreat today, most likely because you find yourself up against someone who is too big or to powerful for you to compete with one-to-one.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Your mind may be working fast but can you trust what it tells you? That might sound like a strange question but while mind planet Mercury is moving retrograde it's something you need to keep asking – often.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Cash flow problems may be causing some concern but don't let your worries get out of control.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. If you get the chance to take advantage of an opportunity that someone else has missed you must not hesitate, not even for a moment. They had their chance and blew it, now it's your turn to benefit. Cash in!

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Talk about bull-headed!"
Linda

JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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It won't be pretty. It won't be easy. But we *will* succeed.

We'll make difficult decisions and tough choices.

Sacrifices will be made.

But then who among us didn't grow up hearing of the hardships and sacrifices our parents and grandparents made to create a better life for us.

Well, now it's *our* turn.

Time for our generation to stand up and take action.

We will do whatever it takes to protect the gains we've made in our schools and our health care.

We'll do whatever we need to do to preserve what is so very special about this place.

And we'll do it together. Because that's the way we do things around here. Together.

We can do this. We're Ontario.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario

ONTARIO

Dalton_McGuinty

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